MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD AT WINDSOR, VERMONT; MONTPELIER, VERMONT; AND PLATTSBURG, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 19-21, 1919.

In compliance with a call of the Chairman a committee meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts was held at Windsor, Vermont, on September 19, 1919.

There were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Adams;
Mr. Platt;
Mr. Kendall;
Mr. Pope;
Mr. Greenleaf;

also Colonel Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer.

1. MERIDIAN HILL PARK AND APARTMENT HOUSE: Colonel Ridley reported that operations were under way for the construction of an apartment house along W Street at the south slope of Meridian Hill to extend from Sixteenth Street back to Fifteenth Street. A letter from Lieut. Colonel C. W. Kutz, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, under date of June 9, 1919 indicates "that the allowable height under present regulations for an apartment building on Sixteenth Street to the highest part of the roof is 85 feet". Colonel Ridley said that to construct the apartment house to the height of 85 feet would make it 11 feet higher than the main terrace walk and that it would appear therefore that at least one story should be omitted from the apartment house. Under date of September 12 a letter was received from Senator Phelan advising that the architect and other persons claim that the building is to be constructed to a height of 77 feet, which is only 2 feet higher than allowed in the bill before Congress regulating the height of buildings that may be erected on land confronting Meridian Hill Park on the south - 75 feet (Senate Bill

2945). Colonel Ridley further said that the matter had been brought to the attention of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia (Hon. L.Y. Sherman, Chairman) for hearings, and that this committee contemplates hearings with a view to proper adjustment of the matter. Colonel Ridley recommended that this apartment house be limited to a height of not more than 67 feet, and that such limit be applicable to future buildings on squares east and west of the proposed apartment house. (Exhibit A).

The committee suggested that if financial loss is to be sustained by the architect and contractor in changing the present plans which will involve a lowering of the apartment house to a height which Congress might specify by enactment of pending legislation that the architect and contractor file claim under due course of law in the Court of Claims for damages.

2. VICTORY MEDAL: Mr. Adams reported that a circular has been published by Bailey, Banks and Biddle showing several medals made by well-known sculptors, one in particular, of two or three by Fraser. The reverse of one of those designs that Fraser has made bears as a central vertical motive a design similar to that proposed for the Victory Medal. The catalog is being published by Bailey, Banks and Biddle for the purpose of furnishing communities with illustrations which would aid in making commemorative medals. Mr. Adams said it was a good thing for a business house but a serious question whether a design similar to that of the Victory Medal should be allowed to go out as advertising matter. He felt that the design for the Victory Medal should be guarded carefully and held in high esteem as one of the great medals of the allied countries who participated in the Great War. The question arose whether Mr. Fraser got his idea for the Victory Medal from any of the designs published by Bailey, Banks and Biddle. Mr. Adams said this was the question, and that he had written to Mr. Fraser for an explanation. Mr. Adams said that possibly Mr. Fraser might have given

Bailey, Banks and Biddle for their catalog, a copy of a design which he (Mr. Fraser) had designed, and a part of which might possibly have been used by him for designing the Victory Medal. Mr. Adams then stated that he had written to Mr. Fraser for an explanation as to the facts in the case. Under date of September 18, 1919, Mr. Adams forwarded the following letter which he received from Mr. Fraser regarding the Victory Medal: (Exhibit B).

> "The medal which you refer to shown in the circular of Bailey, Banks and Biddle Co., has never been used, and won't be. I allowed Bailey, Banks & Biddle Co., to use it as an example of Peace medals, that is all. Mr. Hood came to me saying that they were very anxious to better the condition of medalists in this country and hoped that I would let him use some of my photographs, as he had a number of medalists who were aiding him in the same way. This I allowed him to do.
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> The Victory Medal is completed, I believe, with the changes which were talked of as nearly as I could accomplish them. I have photographs which I will send you if you care to have them.
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> I have just received a letter from Col. Wiley in which he wishes to have another bar made, different from the original shape, for which he has sent me a list of names of battles. These I believe would be better made by die sinkers after a suitable design of bar has been found. I have one letter stating that the bars were what they would use, but evidently they have changed their minds.
>
> Shall I see you before very long? I hope now that the figure will be to the liking of the Fine Arts Commission."

The explanation from Mr. Fraser shows that the design of the medal referred to in the circular of Bailey, Banks and Biddle as being similar to that of the Victory Medal has never been used and "won't be". It will be noted that Mr. Fraser states the Victory Medal is complete with the exception of a change in the bar, and it is hoped that the design for the Victory Medal may be submitted to the Secretary of War for approval at an early date.

3. MEMORIAL TABLET FOR INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION: Under date of August 23d the Commission received a letter from Mr. A. H. Holmead, Acting

Secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission, asking for the cooperation of the Commission of Fine Arts in their plan to erect a bronze tablet in the Interstate Commerce Building to commemorate the twelve boys of the Commission who made the supreme sacrifice. Mr. Holmead stated that they have been for several months at work trying to secure suitable designs from which one might be selected as the most suitable, and that so far about seventy have been secured. He also said that a fund of $800. was available for the purpose. The designs were forwarded to Mr. Adams, the sculptor member of the Commission, he having arranged them in his studio at Plainfield, New Hampshire, near Cornish. The committee inspected them during the afternoon of September 19th. The committee did not favor any of these designs, and suggested that the Interstate Commerce Commission have constructed a simple marble slab. The matter was left for further consideration at the next meeting and inspection of the location.

4. PLANTING PLANS OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, CONSIDERED AT CORNISH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, SEPTEMBER 19, 1919: The Planting Plans of the Lincoln Memorial were given very careful consideration at this committee meeting, Mr. Greenleaf, the Landscape Architect of the Commission, reporting in detail.

Mr. Greenleaf reported that on the afternoon of September 18 he visited the Lincoln Memorial at Washington with Mr. I. W. Payne, Landscape Architect of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, and that they had with them on the grounds the approved grading plan and a preliminary sketch of the planting plans of the Lincoln Memorial.

Inasmuch as the grading plan contemplates a mound immediately about the site approximating an O. G. curve in general section, it was believed by Mr. Greenleaf that the planting should be of a strong, rugged type of informal planting, with irregular, rounded foliage masses, grouped, in general, about the base of the terrace wall, not strictly symmetrical in respect to the eyes

but giving an easy free effect of balance.

In studying the planting plans submitted they were used on the grounds in connection with Mr. Bacon's suggested sketch planting showing the elevations suggested at one-eighth scale, and which was the basis of the plans submitted by the landscape architect, Mr. Payne. The plans submitted by the latter consisted, in addition to the approved grading plan of this site, of two preliminary sketch half-plans and elevations rendered in blue and green crayon merely showing the mass outline of the proposed planting; sketch elevations in crayon of the north, south, east and west elevations of the outer retaining wall; in sectional elevation through the major axis of the memorial are two detailed half planting plans all in conformity so far as possible with Mr. Bacon's suggestions to the landscape architect, as regards plan and material to be used.

It was further Mr. Greenleaf's suggestion that the nucleus of the planting should consist of several large specimens of English Yews, to be used on the east side of the memorial, striving to obtain well-developed specimens and group them somewhat irregularly at suitable points about the base of the retaining wall. Further, that this planting should be relieved at suitable intervals with large specimens of the Irish Yew and of box and graded with lower growing yews, and that the planting should run out at some points one-third to one-half of the distance from the corners of the retaining wall to the outer grass terrace, the latter bounding the circular drive.

In the disposition of the planting about the terrace wall, especially as viewed from the east entrance, Mr. Greenleaf felt that it was desirable to so dispose it as to reveal the wall for its full height on one corner, and on the opposite corner to partially hide it from view--also showing intervening stone work at various points along its length. Thus the observer would gain an impression of solidity and rugged strength which would be lost if the terrace wall were everywhere smothered in planting. In all the planting it was felt

that a simple, virile type of mass-planting of irregularly rounded masses was most suitable and that a planting of strictly formal type to accentuate vertical lines should be carefully avoided.

Viewed from the west side of the memorial, it was Mr. Greenleaf's opinion that more rugged, irregular masses of planting might be used, using possibly Scotch, and Swiss Stone Pines, the Montana Pines and the Mugho Pines, aiming to secure a play of sunlight and shadow by the disposition of the planting.

In considering the proposed flower beds either side of the upper level, immediately adjacent to the stylobate, Mr. Greenleaf felt that such planting was perhaps superfluous and if done at all should be carefully restrained.

In considering the informal planting suggested by Mr. Henry Bacon for the ramped steps bounding the several approach platforms, Mr. Greenleaf emphasized the holding to a strictly formal treatment in the approach planting, therewith parallelling in outline the stepped cheek-walls of the staircase and carrying the eye of the observer to the main feature of the approach, i.e., the Memorial, rather than distracting the attention to an informal planting of minor importance. A similar treatment was felt necessary in the rear of each of the retaining walls connecting the two piers located on either side of the entrance immediately west of the circular drive.

The treatment to be here used was felt to be a continuation of the same formal clipped hedge material as above, keeping it level in elevation throughout.

In this connection it was Mr. Greenleaf's opinion that a broad, rugged evergreen hedge of approximately 7 feet in width should be used adjacent to the ramped steps, bearing a parallel relation to the top of the broad coping used and perhaps projecting a uniform distance above the coping at any point of say 8 or 10 inches and clipped to emphasize its formality of treatment not only for

the near observer but also from a distance, say from the Washington Monument.

In connection with the planting suggested by Mr. Greenleaf, his attention was called to the following specimen trees in the several parks noted as being desirable for this purpose, and which parks will probably be up for redesign. In several of the parks the trees and shrubs have grown out of proportion and ought to be taken out or transplanted.

McPherson Square.

1 Taxus Baccata	9' ht. x 18' spread.

Farragut Square.

6 Buxus sempervirens	9' ht. x 12' spread.
1 " "	12' ht. x 15' "
1 Taxus baccata	10' ht. x 24' "
1 " "	9' ht. x 24' "
2 " "	15' ht. x 27' "

In addition, Mr. Henlock has pointed out to the landscape architect, Mr. Payne, the following specimens located east and south of the New National Museum--

1 Buxus sempervirens	11' ht. x 12' spread.
1 Taxus baccata	11' ht. x 15' "
1 " "	8' ht. x 12' "
2 " " fastigiata	10' ht. x 5' "

Corner 15th and White Lot, west side, of 15th Street.

1 Buxus sempervirens	10' ht. x 15' spread.

Garfield Park.

1 Taxus baccata	8' ht. x 10' spread.

In speaking generally of the Planting Plans of the Lincoln Memorial Mr. Greenleaf stated before the Committee that if the Architect had any particular planting plans in designing the Memorial which may have been considered and met with favor with the members of the Commission, he would hesitate in criticising them. However, he was urged to express his own views and ideas on the subject, which he then did.

Mr. Greenleaf said; "Here is one of the great Memorials of the world; I think it is going to be one of the world's great monuments, a magnificent thing, as I see it, and it seems to me the question of planting it ought to be approached with a great deal of study and consideration for proper effect.. I have the impression, and I have no doubt it is the case, that funds are limited. Consider for a moment; the Country has spent millions of dollars in building the Memorial and is expecting those who have the responsibility of placing the grounds in condition to produce a proper effect with a mere pittance. As I see it that planting ought to be handled with $30,000 at least to do the work adequately and in the way we should like to see it done. Around the foundations and platform terrace there should be bold, strong masses of evergreen of rounded outline, which do not spire up restlessly against the masonry, but form groups of big, broad outline. This can never be done with hemlock for instance. The planting should be begun right, in a small way if necessary, but preferably with large material. I would suggest starting this planting with the English Yew and the box. The foregoing list of Mr. Payne, which we considered, is, I think, an excellent one to start with. On that list are shown a half-dozen or more big yews and some large box bushes--quite an interesting list of things. Whether it is desirable to move them out of other parks in Washington is a question.

Colonel Ridley said that if any yew trees or box bushes were on grounds over which he has supervision he would do his best to see if some could not be transplanted to the Lincoln Memorial. It was recalled that there are specimens of yew trees in Farragut Square and McPherson Square, some of which might be used for this purpose.

Mr. Greenleaf said the planting in front of the Memorial should be simple. The scheme for a bed of varied evergreens and shrubs around the Memorial, which the present preliminary planting plans show, is not desirable. Such a scheme

some would use, perhaps, for the frontage of a private house, but it is too complicated for the frontage of a great Memorial building. A half-dozen variety of plants should be sufficient.

The hedge on the side of the steps ought to be 7 feet wide on each side. The hedge ought to follow a line parallel to and above the cheek coping at an elevation of 8 inches.

Mr. Greenleaf said that doing adequate planting with large specimens was an expensive proposition, and that his statement that $30,000 might cover expenses of the planting plans should not be taken as final. Mr. Platt stated that there are quite a number of box trees around Chesapeake Bay, which Mr. Greenleaf admitted and said carloads have been taken out of that country but there are still many left and it might be possible to get firms who handle them to furnish some for these grounds. Mr. Greenleaf said he had received a letter telling about a box tree 28 feet in diameter and 12 feet high.

Mr. Moore suggested that Mr. Henlock be asked to see what plants of those suggested as suitable for the Lincoln Memorial ground were now in the District of Columbia, and could be furnished through Colonel Ridley's office.

Mr. Greenleaf suggested further placing a bushy vine growth on the terrace back of the coping, on what may be called the terrace platform. The feeling was that by using some of this at a few points the divergence of terrace wall and building lines would be obscured. The variety suggested is an evergreen called the Euonymus, and there is a bushy variety of it which throws out a wide lateral branching effect instead of having an upright growth that would not be suitable. Mr. Greenleaf suggested using also the Virginia Creeper at one or two points to hang down over the wall. All this would be merely an incidental treatment and would not be costly difficult and would help hide the divergence of lines, which appeared to be as much as 8 inches at one point of

view. It was pointed out that the filling about the building has not had time to settle, and this would have to be considered in arranging the planting near or in close proximity to the Memorial.

Mr. Platt suggested that Lewis and Valentine might come down on their prices in furnishing plants for these grounds in view of being identified with the work.

As to the amount which would be needed for developing the Memorial grounds Mr. Pope and Mr. Kendall felt, and in this the other members of the Committee concurred, that $30,000 or $50,000 on an investment of $2,500,000 is a small item, and that the planting ought to be such as would be suitable for so great a Memorial as this. Colonel Ridley then said, concerning the appropriations, that when an additional appropriation was asked for toward this Memorial it was understood to cover everything, and that no further appropriation would be needed; most of the money this year will be used for West Potomac Park; $200,000 has been appropriated for the Canal and $175,000 for the Basin; besides an appropriation of $30,000 for the Maintenance Department. Mr. Pope then suggested that $30,000 be spent as a beginning for the planting plans, and with a proper start made the question of securing such additional sum as would be needed might be left for a later time.

The question was asked as to the height of the yew trees, and Mr. Greenleaf reported that some grow to be 25 feet in diameter and have a height of 14 or 15 feet.

The Committee concurred as a whole in the report and suggestions made by Mr. Greenleaf, and the various suggestions of the members, during the discussion. The Committee recommended redesigning the planting plans to conform to this report; also to see what could be done toward securing specimen yew trees for the Lincoln Memorial.

5. JUDICIARY SQUARE: Colonel Ridley submitted correspondence from Hon. Elliott Woods and Judge Gould regarding changes in walk and driveway in Judiciary Square. It was shown from the present plans for the driveway for the City Hall necessitated the circulation of prisoners through a large portion of the basement floor in order to get them from the patrol wagon to their cells. This circulation would be through the filing section of the building, or through the corridors leading in front of the public offices, such as the Recorder of Deeds office. The request of Judge Gould that driveways be provided for unloading prisoners at the east and west doors would do away with this situation. It was recommended that the plan be revised so as to permit the prisoners to be delivered at the east door by means of widening the present 8 foot walk parallel to the east end of the building into a one-way driveway. The committee approved this recommendation.

6. JAPANESE CHERRY TREES, EAST POTOMAC PARK: Colonel Ridley reported that a recommendation had been received from Mr. Payne, the Landscape Architect, regarding these Cherry Trees for the construction of tablets to commemorate the donor, the Emperor of Japan. In the discussion which followed it was stated that these Cherry Trees have been growing to a great height, and that they have become large trees. The desirability of "thinning them out" in the near future was expressed. The matter was left for further consideration at the next meeting.

7. BEAUTIFYING CAPITOL GROUNDS, MONTPELIER, VERMONT: Under date of June 9, 1919, the Commission of Fine Arts received the following letter from Hon. Frank L. Greene, House of Representatives:

> "I am asked by the Governor of Vermont if it is possible to get the advice, and to some extent, the services of some high grade landscape gardener, who may be in the Federal Service here, or attached to the operations of your Fine Arts Commission in some way. The idea is

that it is proposed to beautify the State House grounds at Montpelier, Vermont, and the authorities are very anxious to make no move in that direction without first consulting the best authorities along the line of works of that kind.

The State House at Montpelier, Vermont, has been pronounced by architects, one of the half-dozen best examples of its style of architecture in the country. It is not a great elaborate or pretentious building, but its lines are very impressive and its natural setting is very effective. It would be a great pity to permit anything to be done in its premises that might mar their beauty.

Now, the point is, if the Federal Government has someone who would be willing to give counsel in a matter of this kind, it might be altogether to the State's advantage to obtain his services. Of course, there is always the opportunity to go into the market in New York, Boston, or elsewhere, but the first thought of the Governor was that the Government here, having had great experience in matters of this kind, might have some official or functionary who would be just the man to advise about just this kind of thing.

If you will kindly give me some suggestion about the matter at your convenience, I shall appreciate the favor very much."

Mr. Greene was advised by a letter addressed to him under date of June 12, 1919, that the Commission would be glad to cooperate in this matter and it was suggested that arrangements be made for a committee meeting at Montpelier.

The committee met in the Executive Chamber of the Governor at Montpelier, on Saturday, September 20, 1919, at 1:00 p.m.

There were present:

Hon. Percival W. Clement;
Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Adams;
Mr. Platt;
Mr. Kendall;
Mr. Pope;
Mr. Greenleaf;

also Colonel C. S. Ridley, Secretary and Executive Officer of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The Governor received the committee very cordially and said he was delighted that the members found it possible to come to Montpelier for a meeting at this time.

In opening the discussion the Governor said by word of explanation that last winter a young lady whose father (Mr. Viles) died not long ago inherited property back of the Capitol building, and made the State a present of that property. As it is the present does not amount to anything in the opinion of the Governor -- it does not amount to what it ought to, but if that property were taken to make particular use of it, it could serve as a setting back of the Capitol building. The Governor thought it would be a fine thing to develop the area into a park. This was the principle reason the Governor had for conferring with Mr. Greene about the matter, and he thought that if the Government had some landscape gardeners it would be very helpful if they could kindly give some assistance in this matter -- people perhaps like Mr. Olmsted who worked at Central Park, New York City.

Mr. Moore said that two members of the Commission, Mr. Platt and Mr. Adams, are neighbors of the Governor, residing at Windsor, and it was through their urgent request to see the locality at this time of the year and the request of the Governor to come to Montpelier, that the committee arranged to come to the Connecticut valley.

The Governor said the country about here is very beautiful and so far as the Capitol grounds are concerned they could be beautified wonderfully if that waste stretch of land back of the Capitol could be developed into a nice park. Thereupon Mr. Moore suggested that Mr. Platt take up the matter and Mr. Platt said he did not exactly know just what should be done first but he thought a good plan would be to look over the situation and then make a recommendation to the Governor; that after the inspection of the grounds someone might be designated

to draw up suitable plans for review by the Commission of Fine Arts and submission to the Governor. The Governor thought this arrangement very good.

After this discussion the committee proceeded to an inspection of the grounds.

(1) There was pointed out first the wing to the left of the Capitol building, facing it. This wing was built as an addition to the Capitol to serve as office rooms, but it is so built that it spoils the beauty of the Capitol building itself very much. Employees refer to this annex as a "jail". Mr. Platt suggested that it would help matters to set in planting in front of the annex (and to face off the "rock facing" to a surface similar to main building?)

(2) Mr. Moore and Mr. Greenleaf thought the walk in front of the Capitol building should be redesigned, replacing the central asphalt strip by grass and low clipped hedge, and that if possible the house, or houses, opposite the street which passes along the front of the Capitol building, be purchased so that the grounds might be extended down to the river. There is a beautiful hillside immediately on the opposite side of the river at this point. It was thought that the existing fence around the Capitol grounds should be retained as defining the old Capitol grounds.

(3) With regard to the dome of the Capitol, the Governor said at the present time this is made of wood, although it has the appearance of stone. It is a question with the officials and legislators whether this dome should be entirely rebuilt of steel or made fireproof. It was thought that because of the excessive weight it would not be advisable to rebuild the dome with stone. The Governor said that it was his opinion that the legislature would take action on this very soon if some definite recommendation as to just what should be done would be submitted. Mr. Kendall thought that the matter ought to be looked into at once. In this connection it was noted that some of the columns of the Capitol building are corroding slightly near the base, while others showed no

such signs. Just what was the exact cause of this was a question.

(4) The stretch of waste land back of the Capitol building was then inspected. This land extends a distance somewhat greater than the present length of the Capitol grounds, very nearly three city blocks. The land extends back over the hill also about the same distance, very nearly three blocks, and has a steep elevation of double the height of the Capitol building itself, or possibly 350 feet from the street. The land lies as it seems along the side of a steep ridge, it is very rugged, with ravines here and there, and a considerable amount of rock outcrop is seen on the surface.

(5) Immediately in back of this land there is an area of 60 to 80 acres lying low, which is owned by the City of Montpelier and which is intended to develop into what is to be known as Hubbard Park. Some planting has been done on the park, but much of it is still undeveloped. This park would join the waste area which it is proposed to d evelop into a park as a part of the Capitol grounds. The Capitol grounds park could therefore be developed into a picturesque hillside park with native tree manes over the rocks and some paths up the slopes and hollows. As the tree growth developed the park would gradually take on great and distinctive charm. The Governor said that he was very glad to hear this from the committee and that work on the roads and planting a few specimen trees could be begun at once. From the steep ridge a very beautiful view is seen of the Capital City, and also of the mountains and the river near by.

The owner of property on the opposite side of the street that runs along the Capitol grounds to the left facing the Capitol was reported to be very much interested in a development of the Capitol grounds. The owner of this property, Mr. Mather, was asked to join the committee, which he did; he stated that he owns a small stretch of land immediately back of the Capitol, but that this could be used in developing the Capitol grounds and that the plans should

include the area now occupied by his house.

The committee recommended that someone be designated to draw up plans for the development of the entire Capitol grounds as proposed, and that such plans be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

8. WAR MEMORIAL, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Mr. Adams reported that there had been referred to him a letter addressed to the Commission by Mr. William F. Franklin, Chairman, Supreme Sacrifice Memorial Committee, for the District of Columbia. This memorial is to be a work in bronze showing a soldier in relief making the supreme sacrifice. The memorial is to cost about $3,500. The sculptor is Mr. Jerome Connor. Mr. Adams said he had just received the correspondence in the matter and the committee, therefore, left it with him for further consideration.

9. MACDONOUGH MEMORIAL, PLATTSBURG, NEW YORK: Mr. Greenleaf and the Chairman made a personal inspection of the site for the MacDonough Memorial Monument at Plattsburg, New York. The monument is to be paid for jointly by the United States and the City of New York. The site is directly in front of the new City Hall, designed by Mr. John Russell Pope of New York City. The land is a continuation of a stretch along the banks of the Saranac to Lake Champlain. The site at the junction of the lake and the river is occupied by a statue of Champlain. At present the site for the MacDonough Memorial is undeveloped. It seems to afford many possibilities in the way of terraces and other landscape features.

There being no further business the committee adjourned.

Sept. 22, 1919.

Hon. L. Y. Sherman,
U. S. Senate,
Chairman, Committee of the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

With reference to the pending bill limiting the height of buildings adjacent to Meridian Hill Park and in compliance with your request, I have to advise that it is very desirable to amend the bill so that it will apply to:

Square 174 entire.
Square 188 entire.
Portion of square 203 west of the alley.
Portion of square 2660 lying south of Lot 207 on 15th Street and west of Lot 849 on Florida Avenue.
Portion of square 202 west of Lot 11.

Even if the Committee considers it desirable to permit the apartment now in controversy to be carried to an elevation of 77 feet above the curb, it is very desirable to limit future buildings on the above mentioned squares to 67 feet above the same point.

Yours very truly,

(signed) C. S. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army.

Photograph enclosed.

EXHIBIT A

JAMES EARLE FRASER
3 Macdougal Alley
New York City

Sept. 18th, 1919.

Mr. Herbert Adams,
Plainfield, N. H.

Dear Mr. Adams:

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Shall I see you before very long? I hope now that the figure will be to the liking of the Fine Arts Commission.

Faithfully,

(signed) J. E. Fraser.

EXHIBIT B.